

The Old Stone Wall

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State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources, **Division of Historical Resources**

Winter 2007

BERLIN PULP MILL BEING DEMOLISHED

News came in October, 2006, that the enormous Brown Company pulp mill that has stood on the eastern bank of the Androscoggin River in Berlin had been sold. The purchasers of the property, North American Dismantling Corporation of Michigan, began removal of the plant in November, announcing their intention to clear the 121-acre site for redevelopment within a year. DHR is cooperating with several New Hampshire organizations to coordinate the rescue of the priceless records of one of America's industrial pioneers.

Riverside Pulp and Paper Mills and Burgess Pulp Mill, which constitute the core of the property to be cleared, were flagship facilities of the Brown Company, evolving during the early twentieth century into the largest chemical pulp mill in the world. The Brown Company continued its operations, with varying degrees of prosperity, until Gulf and Western Industries acquired control of its properties in 1968. Through a series of stock purchases, the Berlin holdings successively operated under the names of James River Corporation,

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STEALING THE STATE HOUSE?



The Old State House in its (temporary) new home. Photograph by Peter Michaud

For nearly two decades, the remains of New Hampshire's colonial state house have waited patiently, in a trailer behind the Division of Historical Resources' office, for the day when public interest would once again be focused on its present condition and possible future. And while the

implementation of an Economic Development Grant to do just that created some murmurs amongst historians and preservationists in the state, what really focused the limelight brightly on the Old State House is the result of an honest mistake.

On November 21, 2006, DHR personnel were shocked to see the trailer containing the Old State House had been moved from its original location. The mystery was compounded by one early riser who, on arriving at the office, saw a royal blue cab with a NH trucking company name painted on its door parked under the old state house trailer. As the DHR employee pulled into the parking lot, the truck pulled away

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Welcoming PETER MICHAUD



In our last issue of the Old Stone Wall we introduced Peter Michaud, our new Special Projects Director, who will be administering the Old

State House Planning Grant and a Preserve America grant focusing on interpretative programs at several state historic sites.

Few individuals are more suited to the tasks before them than Peter is. Growing up in Rollinsford, his childhood vacations were adventures in cultural tourism as his mother and father always included museums and historical sites in the annual vacation itinerary.

He graduated from UNH with a degree in history and has worked for several years managing house museums for Historic New England. headquartered at the Governor John Langdon Mansion in Portsmouth.

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NH Division of Historical Resources http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr

James McConaha Director & State Historic Preservation Officer P. Russell Bastedo State Curator [Vacant] Grants Coordinator Richard A. Boisvert State Archaeologist Edna M. Feighner Historical Archaeologist & Review and Compliance Coordinator Deborah I. Gagne Program Assistant

Iames L. Garvin State Architectural Historian Tanya Kress

Peter Michaud Special Projects Director Elizabeth H. Muzzev State Survey Coordinator **Emily Paulus** Preservation Planner Christine Fonda Rankie

Cultural Resources Records Coordinator

National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives & Covenants Coordinator

Christina St. Louis Program Assistant Linda Ray Wilson Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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Van McLeod Commissioner

The DHR is a state agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

Recent National Register Listings



Atlantic Heights Development, Portsmouth NH. Listed September 20, 2006. Photographs by Lisa Mausolf

The Atlantic Heights Neighborhood has been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in Architecture and Community Planning and Development. It was constructed between 1918 and 1920 by the Emergency Fleet Corporation as part of an effort to address the shortage of freighters for international shipping during the First World War. The dwellings, dormitories, store, cafeteria, and school were created to be a selfcontained village for workers at the adjacent yard established in 1917 for the construction of steel ships.



Atlantic Heights was a model housing project designed to help secure a stable shipbuilding workforce, part of a larger effort to reestablish shipbuilding in Portsmouth. It was a very early use of public finds for housing. Atlantic Heights design was innovative as an attempt to take the English garden suburb template and apply it to a public housing need. The homes were clustered informally along curving roads consistent with the topography of the area. Stylistically the buildings incorporated references to the local historic architecture. Designs of individual buildings were varied in design and materials. In 1919

the project was opened for general rental and six years later was auctioned to private owners. Despite incremental changes and new construction on the edges of the development, the architectural character and landscape qualities of Atlantic Heights remain remarkably intact.



First Universalist Chapel, Lempster NH. Listed December 12, 2006. Photograph by David Ruell

The First Universalist Chapel, built 1845, is currently in use as the Miner Memorial Library. The building has been listed to the National Register for significance in Architecture. It is a fine representation of vernacular Greek Revival styling. William B. Parker (1809 - 1890) was paid five hundred dollars to construct the building. Parker was a life long resident of Lempster. He held many town offices and also served two years in the New Hampshire Legislature. Parker was an active Unitarian, serving as President of the Universalist Society for 36 years. By the mid-20th century the Universalist Society appears to have been struggling. Services gradually were held only in the summer, annual meetings were not held on a regular basis, and other options for the chapel and its dwindling membership were considered. In 1964 the Society voted to turn the chapel over to the Town for use as a library. At Town Meeting in March 1965, the voters approved the acceptance of the chapel for a library. The Lempster public library, founded in 1892, had previously been housed in a second floor room in the town hall. Very little was done to modify the building for its new use which was inaugurated in 1967.

Christine Fonda Rankie National Register and Tax Incentives Coordinator

Haverhill Lime Kilns



Haverhill Lime Company Kiln, Pike (East Haverhill), NH. Photograph by Elizabeth H. Muzzey

In November 2006, members of the Haverhill Heritage Commission and DHR staff investigated two rare lime kilns, built in the 1830s and 1840s at limestone deposits near Black Mountain in Haverhill. By the 1860s, the Haverhill Lime Company produced about 300,000 casks of lime annually, shipping it via railroad from the East Haverhill Station. This kiln, built into a hillside and measuring about 25 feet high, was repaired by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Today the Haverhill Heritage Commission is working with the property owners to maintain the site and educate visitors about its significance.

Elizabeth H. Muzzey State Survey Coordinator



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DHR and Newport Join to Protect Bridges ____

The Division of Historical Resources, the Town of Newport, and the Newport Historical Society have agreed to combine two pending grants to safeguard a pair of rare covered railroad bridges from fire.

Wright's Bridge (1906) and Pier Bridge (1907), two of the eight covered railroad bridges remaining in the world, span the Sugar River in West Newport. Pier Bridge is the longest surviving covered railroad bridge, having a total length of 217 feet. Wright's Bridge is the only surviving double lattice railroad bridge that incorporates laminated wooden arches between its trusses. Like DHR's own Contoocook Covered Bridge in Hopkinton, Wright's and Pier Bridges stand on the right-of-way of the former Concord and Claremont Railroad (see "Contoocook Bridge Underpinning Continues" in the Fall 2006 Old Stone Wall). Both of the Newport bridges are maintained as trail crossings by the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development.

The Town of Newport was awarded a \$500,000 federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant for preservation work on Pier Bridge in 1999. When the town appeared to be unable to raise the required 20% cash match of \$100,000 to activate this grant, DHR acted to secure its own grant to protect the two spans from fire. In March 2006, DHR was awarded a TE grant of \$111,392 for installation of fire detection and suppression systems in both bridges.

In the spring of 2006, the Newport Historical Society stepped forward with a pledge to raise the matching funds needed to activate the long-dormant Newport grant. Realizing that the two TE grants could bring a total of over \$600,000 to the protection of the pair of bridges, DHR offered to merge its grant with the Newport grant, placing both under the administration of the Town of Newport.



Wright's Bridge, Newport NH. Photograph by James L. Garvin

Anyone who is interested in helping the Newport Historical Society to raise the needed \$100,000 match, thereby leveraging over \$600,000 for the protection of both bridges, is urged to send a check in any amount, payable to "Pier Bridge Preservation Project," to Pier Bridge Preservation Project, c/o Leighann King, Sugar River Savings Bank, P. O. Box 569, Newport, NH 03773.

Iames L. Garvin State Architectural Historian

Request for Proposal Old State House **Condition Survey**

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NH DHR) is seeking a qualified conservator to perform a condition survey of the structural and architectural elements commonly referred to as the Old State House, currently in storage in Concord, NH. The condition survey is the first step in an Economic Development Initiative grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Copies of the request for proposal can be found on the NHDHR website http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr or by calling Peter Michaud of the NH DHR at 603-271-3583.

New Listings to the NH State Register of Historic Places

Resources as varied as a stone arch bridge, a stagecoach stop and a funeral home have all been recently listed to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. Listing provides public recognition that a historic property is an important resource in a community. Other benefits include a complimentary one-year membership to the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, special consideration in the application of some access, building and safety codes, and qualification for many types of grant programs for preservation projects (as funding is available).

Since the Spring, the following properties have been recognized on the New Hampshire State Register. All photographs are from DHR files.



Mt. Washington Cemetery, Main and Prospect streets, Bethlehem: The Mt. Washington Cemetery is the oldest burial ground in Bethlehem; although the cemetery was formally cleared and fenced in 1800, the earliest graves date to 1795. The historic landscape of graves, stone walls and mature cedars is a quiet landmark on Main Street. The Bethlehem Heritage Society is now working to preserve gravestones that have deteriorated with time.



Webster Stagecoach Stop and Store, Route 111A, Danville: This small shingled building set close to the

road is the only documented example of a rural stagecoach stop in the state. Other examples are parts of larger properties with a number of historic uses. Early customer accounts remain intact, written on interior walls. The stop's unusual history illustrates the importance of stagecoach routes in the 19th century, not only for travel, but for commerce and mail delivery as well. The Danville Heritage Commission is now working with the property owners to preserve the building.



Pawtuckaway CCC Camp 123 Recreation Hall, Stage Road, Deerfield: Built by and for the Civilian Conservation Corps, this recreation hall remains a tribute to the camp's many contributions in Deerfield from 1933 to 1937. With its prominent stone fireplace, the building is familiar to the thousands who attend the Deerfield Fair every year, where it serves as home to exhibit "Deerfield Fair Past and Present."



Folsom's Tavern / Odiorne Farm, Back River Road, Durham: Folsom's Tavern / Odiorne Farm is a landmark property along one of the state's most historic transportation routes, the First New Hampshire Turnpike, now known as US Route 4. Built c.1805, the tavern served travelers on the newly built turnpike at the north end of the Piscataqua Bridge. The 54-acre farm and outbuildings also document close

to 200 years of tidal farming along Royalls Bay and Little Bay.



Union Chapel, Sawmill Road, Hillsborough Lower Village: Designed by local architect John W. Jackman, Union Chapel was constructed in 1887 after four years of fund raising by the village's Ladies Aid Society. In the years since, the chapel has hosted worship services, summer school, Sunday school, plays, weddings, bazaars and other social gatherings. Formed to foster a sense of community in the growing and industrious Lower Village, the Society has maintained the chapel in pristine condition for more than 100 years; membership dues remain at 25 cents a year.



Stone Arch Bridge, Cheshire Railroad over the North Branch, **Keene:** One of the finest and most daring arched spans in the country when constructed in 1847, this stone arch bridge today carries pedestrians rather then rail cars. It is one of twenty large arched granite bridges and culverts on the former Cheshire Railroad. The line was described as "one of the most thoroughlyconstructed roads in the country. Its bridges, culverts and abutments, built of cut granite, are models of civil engineering." This stone arch rises 50 feet above the river, with a clear span of almost 70 feet.

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Recent NH State Register Listings (continued from page four)



John Bowker House, Winter Street, Keene: The John Bowker House is an outstanding example of the Italianate style, a popular architectural idiom in mid-19th century Keene. Built for the family of manufacturer John Bowker in 1866, the house features a flush boarded exterior painted in imitation of stone, highly decorative trim and window treatments, and a matching connected carriage barn. Many well-preserved Italianate elements, such as staircases, fireplace surrounds and doors, remain in the interior as well.



Madison Corner School, Route 113, Madison: Built in 1835, the Madison Corner School is a quintessential rural one-room schoolhouse, with its simple Greek Revival details, paired doors in the gable end, stove chimney and clapboarded exterior. Now part of a larger complex of educational buildings, the school today houses the Madison Historical Society.



Eugene and Mary Quirin House, Coolidge Avenue, Manchester: With its prominent corner turret and rich Queen Anne style decoration, the Ouirin House has been owned by only two families since its construction in 1906. Eugene Quirin immigrated to Manchester from France in 1883 and became one of the West Side's most successful businessmen and prominent citizens. The Phaneuf family acquired the property in 1955 and converted it to a funeral home, creating one of the oldest continually-owned family funeral businesses in the state.



In October 2006, H.E. Netsch & Sons Blacksmithing on Second Street in Manchester was listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. Sadly, in early December it burned to the ground at the hands of arsonists. The property was a rare example of a 20th century blacksmith shop. Blacksmith, wheelwright and carriage builder H.E. Netsch opened the shop about 1930, with a specialty in horseshoeing. He passed the shop and his blacksmithing skills to his son. Carl, who continued in the business until 1995. Inside, the brick forge, concrete floors and business signs illustrated its long-time use. H.E. Netsch & Sons was Manchester's last operating blacksmith shop. Residents are now planning to memorialize both



the shop and the history of Bass Island where it was located, the city's first commercial area.

North Hampton Town Hall, Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton: Constructed in 1844, the North Hampton Town Hall was the site of town meetings and functions for 160 years as the village grew around it. The town's 1815 Paul Revere Bell hangs in the clock tower. Built with recycled timbers from North Hampton's 1734 and 1761 meeting houses, this Greek Revival style landmark is now closed and waiting for repair.



Peterborough Town Library, Concord Street, Peterborough:

The Peterborough Town Library was designed in 1892 by resident George Shattuck Morrison, a nationally renowned bridge engineer. Morrison's straightforward design, with an emphasis on function and long-lasting materials such as brick and iron, was augmented with a Classical Revival portico in 1914, at the bequest of his sister. Established in 1833, the Peterborough library is credited with being the oldest free library in the world supported entirely by public funds.



Portsmouth Marine Railway Building, Marcy Street, Portsmouth: From 1833 to 1855, the Portsmouth Marine Railway hauled wooden brigs, barks, schooners and clipper ships onto ways for inspection and repair.

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CURATOR'S REPORT _



1895 view of the entrance hall of the State Library. *Image provided by the NH State Library.*

Tewly restored wall sconces and standing lamps (torchieres) have returned to the State Library entry hall. Made by Archer & Pancoast Manufacturing of New York City for the State Library in time for the 1895 opening of the building, these items have been in storage for many decades. Their restoration, undertaken by Conant Custom Brass, of Burlington, Vermont, has been a labor of love. The restored items are on public display at the State Library. Their restoration was made possible by Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) funds.

For the year 2006, under the aegis of the Joint Legislative Historical Committee, six governors' portraits were conserved: Governors Badger, Steele, Colby, Frank Rollins, Samuel Bell and his brother John Bell. Biographies of each governor are available under Publications on the NHDHR website.

Four photographs of early legislators were restored and framed, also thanks to the Joint Legislative Historical Committee. They are now awaiting the committee's decisions on where in the Legislative Office Building to "hang" these worthies.

During summer 2006 the first two floors of the State House were

repainted, necessitating the removal of portraits. While the portraits were down they were photographed in color, and the obverse of each portrait was dusted and cleaned. Portraits are now back in place, and awaiting placement of their descriptive plaques.

Discussions of how to hang the ever-expanding collection of governors' portraits continued with the Joint Legislative Historical Committee, with the full knowledge of the need to make a decision soon because of the imminent arrivals of more governors' portraits.

Statues and memorials at the State House complex were washed and waxed, a process undertaken annually. Descriptions of the memorials and statues on the State House grounds, together with newly taken photographs of them, should be on the NHDHR website shortly.

Your Curator has been appointed a member of the advisory committee of the New England Document Conservation Center, in Andover, Massachusetts. The NEDCC is a premier conservation organization; the appointment is for a three year term.

Russell Bastedo State Curator

Recent NH State Register Listings (continued from page five)

Heavy machinery, with the assistance of only two horses, could pull vessels weighing more than 500 tons upright out of the Piscataqua River. Later used as a residence and a fish market, the building today houses the Portsmouth Players' Ring Theatre.



Stone Homestead, Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey: Built c.1791, the Stone Homestead served as an early tavern along the main road in Swanzey Center at the foot of Mount Caesar. Beginning in the 1830's, six generations of the Stone family lived at the farm, keeping the tavern, expanding farming and logging operations, and updating the main house in the Greek Revival style in the mid-19th century.

For more information on the State Register program and the process for listing a property, please visit our web site at http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/barnstatereg.html or contact the office at 603-371-3483.

Elizabeth H. Muzzey State Survey Coordinator

Welcoming Peter Michaud (continued from page one)

Peter is a board member and actor in the Players Ring Theater, and an advisory committee member and dancer in the Portsmouth Percussive Dance Festival. He is on the board of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society and a member of the Old Berwick Historical Society, currently working on a new exhibit, "Treasures from the Attic." His home in Exeter, the Gilman Garrison, is also a Historic New England house museum.

James McConaha Director, Division of Historical Resources NH State Historic Preservation Officer

New NH Coordinators for Project Archeology

In June 2004, the first Project Archeology Facilitator Training was conducted in New Hampshire. Subsequently, Pat Blevens, New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Program Assistant, coordinated several teacher workshops and presentations at the New Hampshire Council for Social Studies, assisted by State Archaeologist Richard Boisvert and State Review and Compliance Coordinator Edna Feighner.

As Pat has decided to return to graduate school and seek other opportunities, we are pleased to announce new co-coordinators of Project Archaeology, Sheila Charles and Tanva Kress, who will continue to promote the management and stewardship of New Hampshire's cultural resources through public outreach programs and partnerships with regional educators, as well as communities and museums. Project Archaeology will continue to be based at the NH Division of Historical Resources with overall guidance from Richard Boisvert, State Archaeologist.



Sheila Charles, through her historic archaeological consulting business over the past 35 years, has connected with numerous archaeological

projects in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Ohio and California. She has been a principal investigator, historic archaeological researcher, archaeological laboratory supervisor, and cultural resource manager. Sheila holds a Bachelor's and Master's of Arts Degree in Anthropology from California State University Northridge, is a board member of the New Hampshire Archaeological Society, and is the staff archaeologist for the Strawbery Banke Museum and James House Museum. Her teaching and outreach experiences include working with all ages, from pre-school children, college students and AmeriCorps participants to senior citizen volunteers. She is certified as a Project Archaeology "Archaeological

Facilitator" and has directed several student enrichment archaeological programs combining archeology, other sciences and art, which are considered a model for multi-age, interdisciplinary, community based learning. She is one of the developers of the federal award winning Vermont Relics and Ruins Project (1997-2005), which received the 1999 USDA Forest Service National "Windows on the Past" Award for Excellence. In conjunction with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, she directed several field schools at Mount Independence National Historic Site and co-authored From Wilderness to Fortress, the Mount Independence 1999 teacher resource guide; and she has also presented several teachers' workshops.



Tanya Kress, the Records Coordinator for the NH Division of Historical Resources since June 2005, initiated her involvement in New

Hampshire archaeology as a high school student when she worked with the late archaeologist, Howard Sargent, in Georges Mills, NH. In 1994 she participated in the SCRAP field school in North Haverhill, NH. Tanya received a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a Master's of Arts Degree in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, England. She held an internship at the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in Swansea, Wales during her undergraduate studies and was an AmeriCorps volunteer in New Hampshire. She served as an archaeologist and educator for the Sargent Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology where she worked on many archaeological projects around New Hampshire, coordinated the volunteer effort, and developed educational programs for elementary school-aged students. Tanya certified as a "Archaeological Facilitator" for Project Archaeology in 2000. Her employment with the Division of Historical Resources has allowed her

to record and maintain the historic and archaeological records of the State of New Hampshire, provide support to local communities needing assistance with archaeological projects, and develop and incorporate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into the State's archaeological and historical databases.

The mission of Project Archaeology, the award winning education program conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management, is to foster an "understanding of past and present cultures; improve social studies and science education; and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy" (http://www. blm.gov/heritage/project archaeology. htm). For anyone interested in learning, teaching and protecting New Hampshire's rich cultural legacy, Project Archeology offers a comprehensive archaeology and heritage education program and includes publications, professional development for educators, networking opportunities, and continuing support for participants. Its curriculum, combines a handson approach to archaeology and teaching scientific inquiry with citizenship, personal ethics and character, and cultural understanding.

This year, Project Archaeology will include two teacher educational workshops and a roundtable panel to correlate with the New Hampshire Department of Education curriculum standards, and a new annual newsletter. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, have ideas you would like to share, or would simply like to be kept informed, please contact:

Sheila Charles, shearch@comcast.net, 603-883-6574, or Tanya Kress tanya.kress@dcr.nh.gov, 603-271-6568.

You can also visit our websites at http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/project archaeology.pdf and http://www.projectarchaeology.org/ Richard Boisvert, State Archaeologist

Berlin Pulp Mill Being Demolished (continued from page one)



Photograph by James McConaha

Crown Vantage, Pulp and Paper of America (an affiliate of American Tissue), and Fraser Paper.

The longevity of the Brown Company generated a huge, and still largely unevaluated, body of records that were stored in several buildings on both sides of the Androscoggin River. The company's extensive photographic archives were transferred to Plymouth State University in the 1980s. The New Hampshire Historical Society recently received some 200 Brown Company account books. But quantities of architectural drawings, blueprints, and other engineering records remain on-site, in buildings that will soon be demolished. Brown Company business and forestry records remain in buildings on the western side of the river, now for sale. Efforts are underway by the New Hampshire Historical Society, advised by Berlin's Northern Forest Heritage Park and assisted by the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives, to move these records to a safe refuge for later assessment and arrangement.

Berlin's century-old industrial landscape is disappearing daily as the bewildering array of structures and utilities at the site are reduced to rubble. While it is too late to create

a fresh record of the rapidly disappearing complex, DHR is attempting to locate photographs of the pulp mill that were taken before the plant was closed and demolition began.

Berlin's industrial landscape was a legacy of American enterprise. In the early twentieth century, the Brown Company established the first and largest research department in the pulp and paper industry, and one of

the earliest industrial research and development programs in the United States. As the source of pioneering innovation in the wood pulp and paper industries, the company revolutionized the utilization of forest products, greatly enhancing the value and productivity of forests across North America.

James L. Garvin State Architectural Historian

Stealing the State House? (continued from page one)

before its license plate number could be recorded. Evidence at the "scene of the crime" showed that the truck had successfully yanked the less-than-roadworthy trailer from its grassy spot onto the parking lot pavement, and then unsuccessfully tried to back it up into its original position. A search for the trucking company online and in the phone books proved fruitless, as did a call to the Secretary of State. Having explored all other available options, a call to the police was made and a report was filed.

It took little time for the Concord Monitor to pick up the story, which was then carried throughout the regional newspapers, including Boston and Portsmouth as well as a televised report on WMUR TV 9. People all over the state were talking about the Old State House, some going so far to jokingly suggest that the heist was a publicity stunt staged by the Division. The buzz created by the publicity led to a tip being called in to the State Police. The matter was investigated and the results are a relief to all of us involved. It was a well meaning driver, on a mission to pick up another trailer at Pillsbury Street, who started to move ours instead. As it became clear that our trailer was not in towable condition, the driver made a phone call, realized his error, and tried to place our trailer back where he had pulled it from. It was an honest mistake.

While we are relieved that the old New Hampshire state house was not the victim of a malicious theft, the potential threat illustrated by this scare was taken seriously. Work was done to temporarily immobilize the trailer as we looked for a safer location. On December 19th, the Department of Transportation (DOT) moved the Old State House to a currently unused state-owned building. This partnership with the DOT will allow us to safely store the building and give us the space needed to remove the historic fabric from the trailer for the first time since the building was stored away in 1989. In the coming months, the DHR plans to examine the components of the Old State House with a qualified architectural conservator. This will allow us to access the condition of the building's parts; a crucial first step that will help set our direction as we move forward in exploring the possible uses for this unique relic of New Hampshire's colonial past.

Peter Michaud Special Projects Director

State of New Hampshire • Department of Cultural Resources • Division of Historical Resources 19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3570

603-271-3483 or 603-271-3558 • FAX 603-271-3433 • Voice/TTY Relay Access 1-800-735-2964 • preservation@dcr.nh.gov

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